

Mrs. Warner To Be Questioned On Blackmail

Bronx Grand Jury to Keep Up Hunt for Plotters When Woman Tells Tomorrow How Her Visitor Was Shot

Three Still Elude Police

Reid Continues to Gain and Doctor Plans to Operate on Eye and Head Wednesday

Whatever mystery still surrounds the shooting of John H. Reid more than a week ago is expected to be cleared away when Mrs. Hazel Davis Warner, in whose home at 1892 University Avenue, he was shot, appears before the Bronx grand jury tomorrow morning to tell her story of the affair. Reid's condition continues to improve, although his eye is still badly injured. Immediately after the shooting Mrs. Warner, who is believed to be the only eyewitness of the assault, disappeared. For five days the police looked for her without success. She was seen at the apartment house where she lives, but she refused to give herself up and was held in \$10,000 bail as a material witness. Don Collins or Robert A. Tourbillon, who is alleged by the authorities to have shot Reid, Francis T. Roy, and the other two men who were named by the police, are still being sought. It is thought that they are in Philadelphia.

Besides a possible explanation of the murder, the grand jury will hear evidence as to the existence of an organized group of blackmailers in this city. Mrs. Warner will be questioned on this phase of the story which developed during the investigation.

Charles Leighton and the Misses Audrey and Lila Lawrence, all of 6 West Fifty-sixth Street, who have given evidence concerning the activities of a band which preyed on rich men in exclusive hotels, on steamships, at fashionable resorts and elsewhere, will appear again before the grand jury tomorrow. These witnesses were called into the case to reveal whatever information they had of the shooting, and the account of the blackmailing came out during their examination. While there may be no opportunity for further testimony from Mrs. Warner, the inquiry will be continued. The prosecuting authorities in the Bronx say that they are sure that much good will come of the investigation. Already cases which have been pending for some time have been dropped, apparently because of what has been revealed during the last week, officials say.

Dr. Alexander Nicoll, who is attending Reid, said last night that his patient was still in a serious condition, although resting fairly comfortably. He added that he probably would operate on Reid's eye and skull on Wednesday and that X-ray photographs would be taken to-day.

On the Screen

Marguerite Clark's Art Saves "Scrambled Wives" at Strand; "Snowblind" at Capitol

By Harriette Underhill

Can it be that we do not like pictures as well as we did, or are the pictures not so good as they used to be, or what is the trouble? We see pictures that are heralded for weeks and we read the advance notices and we go to the theater full of hope and then what happens? The comedies aren't very funny, the melodramas are too mellow and the society dramas are filled with impossible people and impossible titles. People say "Well, what sort of pictures do you like?" and we can say pictures like "The Miracle Man," "Broken Blossoms" and "Gypsy Blood," but where are they to be found? Yesterday we saw "Scrambled Wives" at the Strand and "Snowblind" at the Capitol; of each we had heard glowing accounts and yet neither interested us very much.

"Scrambled Wives" has all of the elements of success. What more of an excuse for a farce could there be than a secret marriage between two young people, an annulment and a meeting two years later at a house party? What probably ails "Scrambled Wives" is that they have been scrambled to the wrong man and not held close enough to the fire. It is a sort of a bed-room farce but it seems an expurgated edition. When the former husband is found in the law, the young man should by all the traditions, be found under her bed and she should at least be wearing a peignoir. Instead she reclines on a chaise longue in a tea gown and he hides behind a portiere. Of course he sneezes. Pathetic and blundering but innocent husbands like John Cumberland and Ralph Bunker always sneeze at the wrong moment so that the real husband or the fiancé or the maiden aunt may know that they are hidden on the premises.

As we said, the plot is all right, though it seems to unfold itself so slowly. No farce comedy is ever plausible enough to stand up if the audience is given time to think, and in the case of May Smith and John Chivverick you say, "Why all the mystery and why couldn't she say 'I'm not Mrs. Smith. I'm Miss Smith.' The message over the telephone was misunderstood."

Marguerite Clark as one of the wives is adorable. She looks as much like a French doll as ever, and continues to be one of the cleverest comedienne on the screen. Her wave of popularity has been a permanent one. Leonid Kinskey is handsome and sufficiently dignified as the happy lover, and Ralph Bunker gives a perfect performance as the unhappy husband. He is very funny, and that is why we could not understand the lack of humor in the picture as a whole. Florence Martin, Alice Mann and Virginia Lee are all good and beautiful as wives or aspirants.

There are some scenes taken in color where Miss Clark dances with the Benoni masks. These, of course, are beautiful, too. The picture was directed by Edward Griffith.

The comedy is "The Bakery," with Larry Semon. "The Bakery" really hasn't any more pies, however, than its predecessors. The overture is "Naughty Marietta," and Katherine King, the clever violinist, plays "Spanish Dance No. 8," by Sarasate. There is a vocal duet, "You Are Free," by Walter Vaughan and Ethel Bert.

latter angle is the more interesting to us because ever since we saw "Way Down East" other snow pictures seem tame to us. Also when Hugh and Bella shoot the rapids one cannot help comparing it with the scenes in the same picture where Mary Moore nearly goes over the falls.

The cast in "Snowblind" is excellent. Russell Simpson is the fugitive from justice, warped of soul as well as body. He might have been called "the man who scowled," for his mouth was continually drawn down on one side by a scar. Pauline Stark gives a charming performance as the girl who is blinded by the snow. Cullen Landis is the hero and Mary Alden, the pale martyr. Unfortunately, so few pictures ring true. When Sylvia, the music hall girl, decided to leave the troupe she said, "I feel soiled. I cannot sing before these vile beasts of men," or words to that effect. Now, how could a girl who would join a company like that possibly express herself so? And when she upbraided Hugh her language was something elegant. We cannot remember what she said, but it was most rhetorical. What title writers make their characters say is appalling. Very few pictures have we ever seen where they talk like human beings. We wish to suggest that Rupert Hughes be confined for the rest of his life and for the good of the industry not allowed to do anything but write titles. He did the titles for "Hold Your Horses." Lots of men can write good stories, but how few of them can write good titles. They spoil many a picture. Reginald Barker directed "Snowblind." The story is by Katherine Newlin Burt.

The overture is from "Maytime," with the Capitol ballet. The orchestra is by Miss Maria Samson singing "Rachman." There is a beautiful Prisma picture, "The Sacred City of the Desert," and a Mack Sennett comedy, "She Sighed by the Seaside."

At the Rivoli "The Woman God Changed" is the feature. Bebe Daniels and Lila Lee are the stars. The picture is by George M. Cohan. These will be reviewed tomorrow.

The Stage Door

"Sun Kiss" the Fanchon and Marco production, opens to-night at the Globe Theatre.

The Theater Guild presents "John Ferguson" for a three weeks' run, beginning to-night, at the Garrick Theatre.

The Tavern will be revived again to-night at the direction of Charles Frohman, Inc. in "Blood and Sand," a dramatization by Tom Cushing of the novel of Blasco Ibañez.

As this week marks the seventeenth anniversary of their stage partnership, autographed photographs of Pat Rooney and George M. Cohan will be given to each patron of "Love Birds" at the Apollo.

Otis Skinner will appear next season under the direction of Charles Frohman, Inc. in "Blood and Sand," a dramatization by Tom Cushing of the novel of Blasco Ibañez.

Vinton Freedley has been engaged for "Fringeland," which Ned Wayburn will produce next season.

"The Melody of Money" by George H. Atherton is to be presented in Stanford on Memorial Day.

A summer season of prices will be inaugurated to-night at the Bijou Theatre, where "The Passing Show of 1921" is playing. Two dollars and a half for the evenings. 12 at matinees, is the ruling for the entire orchestra.

"The Prince and the Pauper" is the attraction at the Shubert-Riviera this week.

William A. Brady has obtained a new comedy from Martha M. Stanley and Adele Laidi Mathews, entitled "Dreamy Eyes," for which he has engaged Jane Grey and Faure Binney.

To-night begins the last week for "The Passing Show of 1921" at the Winter Garden, and of Doris Keane in "Romance" at the Playhouse.

Oliver Morosco has contracted with Warner Janssen to write the music for the new Charlie Chaplin play, which will be produced next fall.

The Dumbells will give a complete performance of "Burr, Bink! Bang!" tomorrow afternoon at the Fox Hills Hospital.

Florence Reed in "The Miracle" is at the Bronx Theatre to-night.

William Harris Jr. has secured the American rights to the play "Femme de Barbe-Bleue," by Alfred Savoir, which he will produce here under the direction of Charlton Andrews, under the title of "Bluebeard's Eighth Wife."

Max Marsh has signed a long-term contract with John D. Williams for her appearance on the legitimate stage, which will not, however, interfere with an occasional 8th Avenue appearance.

Germaine Mitty, a sensational French dancer, will make her American debut in the new "Ziegfeld Follies." The Innis brothers and Van and Schenck also have been engaged.

"Snowblind," the feature picture, is a tale of the frozen North. Many of the scenes tell of men who live the life of hermits at the top of the world. Others tell of blind girls who love ugly men, believing them to be built on the general plan of Greek gods, but "Snowblind" combines the two. The

Rum Holiday Seen in Cut Of Dry Force

(Continued from page one)

announcement from Washington of the staff reductions, because "the appropriation of the State Law Enforcement League has not run out," and the dry organization is making plans to counteract any loosening of supervision resulting from the Washington order.

Kansas City Prices Tumble

KANSAS CITY, May 22.—A tumble in the price of booze here is the most noticeable effect of the virtual cessation of prohibition enforcement. Prices on bonded liquor fell from \$25 a quart to \$15 last week and the supply appears to be unlimited.

Six of the eight Federal enforcement agents here have been relieved by Mr. Kramer's retrenchment move. With only two men left, the job, bootleggers loosed a flood of bonded liquor on the local market, knocking prices down and "loosening up" an otherwise rather "tight" town.

Maryland Dries Appeal to Kramer

BALTIMORE, May 22.—A request for the concentration of Federal prohibition agents in this state to preclude the possibility of bootleggers running wild in the absence of workers furloughed through lack of funds has been sent to Commissioner Kramer by George W. Cran, chief superintendent of the Maryland Anti-Saloon League.

In his letter Mr. Cran wrote: "In this letter I have some of the men in other states brought here to check the threatening era of lawlessness? I am told we are going to have more drunkenness, with possible shooting and murder, than in any other state."

"The bootleggers all know the situation and unless something is done hell will break loose."

Bootleggers in Baltimore are going along with the business in their usual manner.

Real Beer in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS, May 22.—There were more intoxicated men on the streets of New Orleans during the early hours of to-day than there have been since national prohibition went into effect. Most of the consumption of intoxicants here was limited to 4 per cent beer, which was sold in practically all soft drink stands and restaurants.

Twelve men were taken to jail charged with being drunk.

The lifting of the lid has had no effect on the price. Real beer is selling for cents a glass, pints for 20 cents. Moonshine or overnight whisky costs from \$4 to \$6 a quart. Canadian Club, Raleigh River and the others, \$10 to \$15. Claret wine is from \$3 to \$5 a gallon.

Cleveland Dries Are Active

CLEVELAND, May 22.—The effect on Cleveland bootlegging by the cut in the force of the Cleveland district prohibition enforcement crew by Attorney General Daugherty's order will not lessen the battling of prohibition crime here if the Cuyahoga County Dry Maintenance League can help it.

Offers of assistance to any degree from the Daugherty Agent's Council needs were made yesterday by George C. Southwell, secretary of the league, who added that workers of the league will make a survey beginning early this week.

Milwaukee Prices Stay Up

MILWAUKEE, May 22.—Booze is just as costly in Milwaukee as a week ago. Fair stuff, that looks as if it might be genuine, still brings \$15 a quart and the moonshine is selling for 10 cents a drink in some districts.

Lack of Federal prohibition officials makes no difference to Wisconsin. The state has been bound by a state law called the Mulberger measure, and since this went into effect policemen and state officers have united in the war on the liquor traffic. It is no uncommon sight to see ten or more violators fined \$250 and costs each day in Milwaukee. The Mulberger law forbids the manufacture and sale of anything containing over 24 per cent alcohol.

Last week the Matheson law, superseding the Mulberger law, was passed by the state Legislature. Under it applicants for prescriptions must swear as to their ailment and sign their names to prescription blanks. Wis-

consin will receive prompt attention. McCarthy has even gone so far as to suggest that he be permitted to keep his entire force, the men to work without pay during the forty-day period beginning to-night and ending July 1, depending on later action by the Congress for a deficiency appropriation covering salaries for the period.

McCarthy declares that to cut his force to the extent ordered by Washington would result in a bootlegger holiday throughout New England for the next forty days.

Cincinnati Supply Unchanged

CINCINNATI, May 22.—The reduction of the prohibition forces in greater Cincinnati will have little effect on the liquor traffic situation, in the opinion of George S. Hawkes, secretary of the Hamilton County Good Citizens League, an opinion concurred in by others who have been instrumental in combating or promoting prohibition violations here.

The supply of whisky here has not increased to any noticeable extent. Bottled in bond goods is higher to-day than it was before the Presidential election, when efforts were made to curtail the illegal sales of whisky.

Moonshine whisky, to being manufactured in large quantities and eventually will bring down the price of "red" liquor, in the opinion of those close to the "market." Bootleggers are operating more prominently than heretofore.

The numerous whisky truck robberies have added to the supply on the market, but have had no effect on the price.

Herman H. Bergeheger, chairman of the Norwood Branch of the National Association against the Volstead act, said to-day:

"In my opinion there is more moonshine whisky being sold in Cincinnati to-day than at any time since the prohibition act, when into force. The number of 'home-brew' manufacturers has increased, while bootleggers are more numerous than lawyers."

Little Change in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, May 22.—The decrease in the number of prohibition enforcement agents in St. Louis and surrounding territory has had little effect on the extent of liquor sales, and the subsequent cases of intoxication. There are still five agents operating in St. Louis under the direction of Charles M. Williams. In East St. Louis, Ill., where the flowing bowl was always well filled before the days of Volsteadism, M. T. Kiggins, in charge of prohibition enforcement, said to-day:

"The number of 'home-brew' manufacturers will be arid in a month when the new blanks for physicians and druggists are printed. The measure was put over by the Anti-Saloon League."

Moonshine continues cheap because there is so much competition among the manufacturers, who are cutting prices.

\$13 a Quart in Boston

BOSTON, May 22.—William S. McCarthy, Prohibition Enforcement Commissioner for New England, has not as yet cut down the number of his agents and is doing his best to prevent being obliged to reduce his force. If a cut must come he wants to make it

much lighter than the original report called for.

He has wired Commissioner Kramer protesting against any cut and has received assurances from both Kramer and Illinois, is left without any men.

The liquor situation in St. Louis was well under control at the time of the cut in the number of agents, and according to many saloon keepers, most of the men who were selling liquor indiscriminately for several months and who were forced to face Judge C. B. Faria in the United States District Court here will be unwilling to again take up the illicit business.

Distillers Free of Tax When Liquor Is Stolen

No Liability for Extra Levy on Withdrawn Stocks if Diverted, Ruling by Daugherty

WASHINGTON, May 22.—Distillers are held exempt from extra taxes on liquor withdrawn from warehouses for non-beverage purposes if diverted by theft to illicit uses, under an opinion by Attorney General Daugherty, submitted to Secretary Mellon and made public to-night. The opinion was given in response to a request of the Secretary for a ruling as to the liability of distillers for the so-called differential tax on liquor when diverted from non-beverage purposes.

The differential tax on distilled spirits amounts to \$4.20 a gallon, representing the difference between the beverage rate of \$6.40 and the non-beverage rate of \$2.20.

In the absence of intention on the part of the distiller to evade the law, Mr. Daugherty ruled, the differential tax could not be applied if the liquor was actually withdrawn for non-beverage purposes.

"However," he said, "in cases where the distilled spirits are withdrawn for non-beverage purposes and are subsequently diverted to beverage purposes with the knowledge or connivance of the distiller, it is my opinion that the distiller is liable for the so-called differential tax, if there is shown to be a reasonable presumption of knowledge on his part that such distilled spirits would be diverted to other than non-beverage purposes by those coming into possession of them."

Kramer Expects Big Jump in Bootlegging

From The Tribune's Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, May 22.—Demoralization of the agencies of the government for the enforcement of the prohibition act will result from the laying off of 700 members of the dry forces because of lack of funds, in the view of John F. Kramer, Prohibition Commissioner, and Wayne B. Wheeler, general counsel of the Anti-Saloon League of America.

"We had plenty of work for the staff of 1,150 men we had in the field," Prohibition Commissioner Kramer said, "and the reduction we have been forced to make will seriously decrease our success in controlling the illicit sale of liquor."

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"The government will lose five dollars for every dollar saved by the reduction in force," Wheeler declared.

"The curtailment of the prohibition force went into effect Friday night," Commissioner Kramer said, "and we have had no reports from the field as to the effect of the cessation of work. One can easily conclude, however, that its effect will be very serious. If any manufacturer would lay off 700 men at one time, the productivity of his factory would immediately suffer, and it is the same in the work of enforcing prohibition. The cut will hurt the prohibition force."

Commissioner Kramer expects a big increase in bootlegging during the period that the dry forces are inactive. He also believes that the laying off of some of the agents will result in their getting other positions, and they may not be available as witnesses in the prosecution of violations in which they were concerned.

Wheeler declared that the dry would watch with great concern the choice of a successor to Chief Justice Edward Douglass White.

"The one event that spread gloom over the dry headquarters more than any other," he said, "was the death of Chief Justice White. His decision sustaining prohibition, greatly helped the advancement of national prohibition. Chief Justice White wrote the famous opinion in the Webb-Kenney case, in judicial history, the turning of the tide and the hastening of national prohibition. The dry will watch with great concern the choice of his successor."

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